

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for June 26, 2009

This e-mail is provided weekly as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

### GENERAL OVERVIEW:

#### 2010 Budget:

Budget negotiations are being reported as *having reached agreement* but details are pending. You can access any posted statements by the Governor, as issued, at the website under *Latest News*:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/>

The House Committee on Appropriations special meeting agenda for tomorrow, Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, includes twelve striker bills potentially for budget trailer bills: HB 2643 through H2653 as well as HCR2037. These have been added to the Councils FULL List for your convenience in tracking actions taken in the next few days.

The resulting impact of any final budget agreement to state agencies and services is not fully known at this time. State agencies have been preparing contingency plans with the hope that a fiscal year 2010 budget will be passed and signed by July 1<sup>st</sup> and avoid a potential shut down.

On Wednesday, Governor Brewer announced Arizona was one of the first 10 states to receive federal stimulus dollars for state energy plans. View the press release at:

[http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR\\_062409\\_State%20Energy%20Program%20Funding.pdf](http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_062409_State%20Energy%20Program%20Funding.pdf)

#### Legislation:

Bills are being heard and moving forward in a rapid fire pace amid concerns voiced by legislators and constituents alike on the lack of time to fully consider the proposed legislation. The following are *a few of the bills from the Councils FULL List* that have seen action this week or are being heard today, tomorrow or next week.

#### Bills Passed:

**H2091: Charitable Organization; Solicitations; Disclosure**

**H2283: Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program**

**H2399: Automated External Defibrillators**

**H2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives**

**H2622 Dependent Children; Relatives; Disclosure**

Note: These bills are all found on the FULL List web report.

**H2344: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation:** the bill passed from the Senate Rules Committee. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:

[http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=HB2344](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2344)

**S1098:** *Direct Care Workers; Health Care Directives; 6/26/09: from Senate Rules Committee with tech amendment.*

[http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=SB1098](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1098)

**S1400:** *Dental Assistants; Community Oral Health; 6/26/09: approved in House Committee of the Whole. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:*

[http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill\\_Number=SB1400](http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1400)

At 6 pm on day 166 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,133 bills posted, 70 passed, seven (7) signed; 101 memorials and resolutions posted and four (4) passed. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

### **STATE LEGISLATION:**

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

#### **FULL LIST:**

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

**Reminder:** Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for *updated, revised* Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

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The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

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**Reminder: You can still contact your policymakers.** If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals, bills or anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

**Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

### **FEDERAL LEGISLATION:**

**H.R.2460**

**Healthy Families Act**

H.R. 2460 was introduced on 5/18/2009 by Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-3); there are 105 cosponsors.

The intent of the bill is to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

Healthy Families Act - Requires certain employers, who employ 15 or more employees for each working day during 20 or more workweeks a year, to permit each employee to earn at least one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked.

H.R.2460:

Declares that an employer shall not be required to permit an employee to earn more than 56 hours of paid sick time in a calendar year, unless the employer chooses to set a higher limit.

Allows employees to use such time to: (1) meet their own medical needs; (2) care for the medical needs of certain family members; or (3) seek medical attention, assist a related person, take legal action, or engage in other specified activities relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Prohibits an employer from interfering with an employee's exercise of such rights.

Directs the Secretary of Labor to exercise certain investigative and enforcement authority for employees covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 or the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991. Grants the same authority, for employees under their jurisdiction, to the Librarian of Congress, the Comptroller General, the Board of Directors of the congressional Office of Compliance, and the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Authorizes civil actions by employees, individuals, or their representatives for damages or equitable relief against employers who violate this Act.

Waives a state's sovereign immunity with respect to a suit brought by an employee of a federally-assisted state program or activity for relief authorized under this Act.

Requires the Commissioner of Labor Statistics annually to compile information annually on paid sick time, and the Comptroller General to study related matters.

Declares that nothing in this Act shall be construed to discourage employers from adopting or retaining more generous leave policies.

On 5/18/09 the bill was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S.1152, related legislation, was introduced on 5/21/09 Senate by Senator Edward Kennedy and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

For more information specific to these bills, go to the Thomas website  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill numbers under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

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**Administration on Aging** recently announced the confirmation of Kathy J. Greenlee as Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services. The press release is posted at:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Press\\_Room/News/2009/06\\_26\\_09.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Press_Room/News/2009/06_26_09.aspx)

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**Contact Your Congressional Member:** If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

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#### **INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society, *Transcultural Aspects of Aging & Healthcare***  
**WHEN: Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 7:30 am 4:45 pm, Mesa Convention Center, 263 North Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201**

For more information:

<http://www.arizonageriatrics.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=90747>

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If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov).

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**Thank you and have a great week!**

**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**